

September 2, 2008

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING DOCUMENT:

The North and South Dakota resource management plans (RMPs) were initially completed in 1988 and 1986. These land use plans cover more than 274,000 surface acres and 3.7 million subsurface acres in South Dakota, and more than 58,000 surface acres and 5.6 million subsurface acres in North Dakota. There will be two records of decision and two environmental impact statements reflecting the plan for each state.

ISSUES:

This revision will address issues that were identified through internal scoping such as transportation planning, major energy development, forest health, livestock grazing and rangeland health, wildlife, recreation, and land tenure decisions.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:

There have been changes in users and uses of public land in the last 15 to 20 years within the Dakotas.

The next phase in the RMP process involves developing management alternatives and preparing the draft environmental impact statement.

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:

Public interest is expected to be moderate to high because the RMP will set the direction for how the BLM-administered lands will be managed for the next 10-20 years. There is growing interest because of travel management planning (roads open/closed and game retrieval), oil and gas leasing in greater sage-grouse areas or areas of high cultural interest, and potential coal development.

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